

sons indifferent to them, as other people are whose interest it is on the whole rather to please than to displease ; and will meet you in the rotunda of the capitol by appointment ; introduce you into the library of Congress ; tell what senator is looking out of the middle window, or what distinguished representative is turning over Audubon's Ornithology ; point to the President's house, the departments, the patent-office, and the top of the dome, as objects worthy of a visit ; and then entering their chamber, introduce you to a few loungers near their own seats, yawning at the thoughts of another stupid day, or nervous and feverish with anxiety about the country or themselves. If it be gloomy weather, late in the session, you feel as if you were in a prison, for the people seem as dissatisfied as convicts. One is lost in thought about something invisible, another blushes over some newspaper which has attacked him, a third hurries to hear whether you have brought any news, and all are either hoping or despairing about soon obtaining their release.

The broad staircase on the east side of the capitol, by which you wearily mount from the level of the yard to the floor of the houses, the rotunda, &c., is a deformity, interfering exceedingly with the architectural beauty of the front. It is unprecedented in Europe, so far as I have seen, unless the capitol of Rome should be claimed as an example, which cannot with propriety be done. The "stairs which lead to the capitol" of that metropolis are made merely to mount the hill, and do not cover a large part of the edifice.

I was much pleased with the morning scene from the terrace, and still more with that from the top of the capitol. The view would be splendid indeed if the city were of the size originally expected, or even if the surrounding country were well cultivated. I could not, however, spend much time in the city, without first visiting Mount Vernon. The very name of that place had long been dear to me. The sound always seemed sweet and solemn to my ears. I have had a peculiar feeling for it ever since the day when my father came home with a badge of mourning upon his arm, and said, with a tear in his eye, that General

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